

contemptible, that might not, unless jealously restricted in its fertility, become a scourge to the rest of the living creation. A locust is not in itself a very redoubtable foe, and, were it not for the dire experience of its ravages, would be as little feared as the grasshopper that chirps in our meadows ; nevertheless, as we are told, there is an Eastern fable, which says that upon the wing of the locust is an inscription to this effect :—‘ We are the army of the Most High God : we lay ninety and nine eggs ; did we lay the hundredth, we should eat up the whole world and all that it contains :’ and the language of this splendid orientalism, forcible as it is, is by no means too strong for the occasion.”

Parks and Pleasure-Grounds, or Practical Notes on Country Residences, Villas, Public Parks and Gardens. By CHARLES H. J. SMITH, Landscape Gardener and Garden Architect, &c. &c. London : Reeve, 1852, post 8vo, pp. 290.

The author tells us in his preface, “The design of the following work is altogether a practical one. While engaged in his profession during the last eighteen years, the author has often been requested to recommend a book which might enable persons consulting him to acquire some general knowledge of the principles of Landscape Gardening, and which might aid them in carrying his suggestions into effect.” As he states, most of the existing works on this subject are general treatises calculated for forming and cultivating the taste, rather than practical treatises on the operations of carrying out the principles ; hence he has been induced to give the results of his experience in a form accessible and available to all of ordinary education. The work consists of a series of chapters treating separately of the different departments and classes of operations, commencing with instructions for choosing the site and arrangement of the plan and style of the house ; and in the eight following chapters, the gardens, pleasure-grounds, park, plantations, water, &c. are treated in detail. Then we have a chapter on public parks and gardens, useful at the present time, since it contains many sensible suggestions. The villa and its appurtenances, as a more frequent if not so ambitious subject of the art, has its special chapter ; and after another of ‘general observations,’ the volume closes with two chapters on ‘the Arboretum’ and ‘the Pinetum.’

The views inculcated appear to us judicious, and the practical instructions are conveyed in simple and perspicuous language, so that Mr. Smith’s book seems to us exceedingly well-calculated to fulfill the object with which it was prepared ; and it may be remarked that the diffusion of a treatise like this, which gives at once a clear and compendious view of the points to be kept in view in planning work of this nature, must be of great advantage not only to those who have the conduct of such operations, but to persons whose taste induces them to enter upon improvements on their own property, and who in the absence of experience but too frequently raise monuments to their own incapacity.